



Volume 2, Issue 5

Ouranophantor

May 2019

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office: info@stbasilchicago.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Telephone: 312-243-3738

Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961

email: frdimitri@stbasilchicago.org

Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.

Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 5, 2019

- + Coffee Hour Ministry Potluck Luncheon, hosted by the Rohrman Family — immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall
- + Greek Independence Day Parade 2:30 p.m.

Saturday May 11, 2019

- + St. Basil Prison Ministry Discussion, Life After Prison at 10:00 a.m. in Philoptochos Hall

Sunday May 12, 2019

- + Mother's Day Brunch, hosted by the St. Basil Choir — immediately following Divine Liturgy in Philoptochos Hall

Friday, May 24 to Sunday May 26

- + Junior Olympics — see church office for details

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

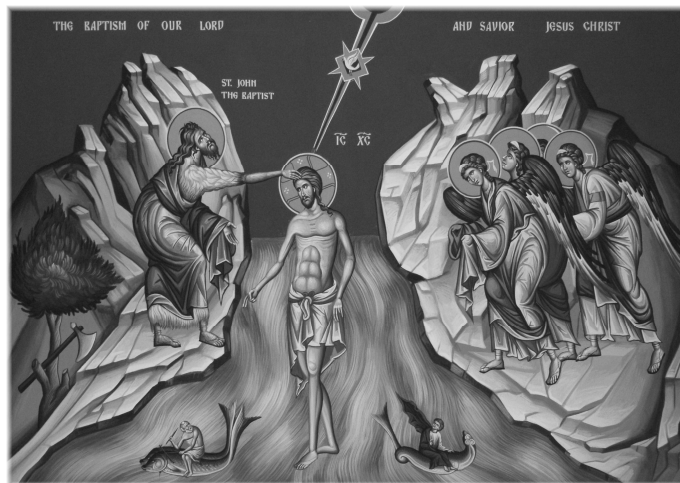
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



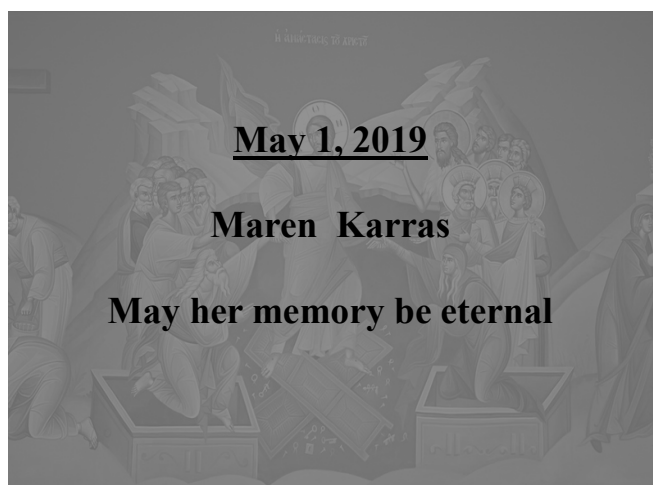
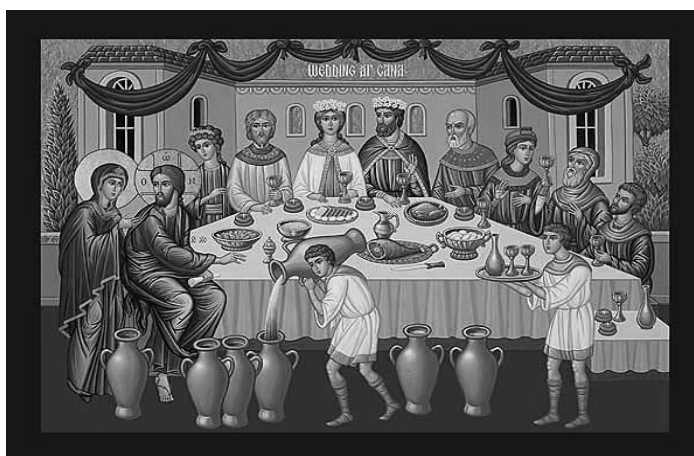
Baptisms:



Chrismations:



Weddings:



Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Spring is a season when many people get married. What is the purpose of marriage? This is a question I ask couples during pre-marriage counseling, and the responses are normal: to have a home, to have children, to have security, to have a friend all the days of our lives. These answers are nice and in keeping with the view of marriage in the world. And yet I present a different goal for the couple: To walk arm and arm into Paradise together.

In the Orthodox marriage service, the couple are crowned; and while this symbolizes the two as a king and queen of their new kingdom, it also serves as a different symbol.

During the Dance around the Table in the wedding service, the second hymn is "O holy martyrs, who have fought the good fight and have received your crowns: entreat ye the Lord, that he will have mercy on our souls." Why, during the joining of two souls would we invoke the memory of the Martyrs? Why, at a happy occasion, would we bring to mind blood, torture, and death? Why? Because that is the second meaning of the crowns.

From the story of the 40 Soldier Martyrs of Sebaste, we learn that the reward for martyrdom is crowns in heaven. These diadems of victory are indicative of their victory over death itself and true "witness" to Jesus Christ. And that is precisely what the new bride and groom are called to do: to witness to one another and Jesus Christ, to die to Him and to each other daily and become worthy of those crowns of martyrdom.

Have you ever wondered why there are no vows in the Orthodox marriage ceremony? There is no special "I do" moment, which causes confusion to some. How can there be a marriage with no vows? This is because the two have already made promises to one another. They have already pledged their lives and their love for the other. This is the moment that the two ask Christ our God to bless their relationship and be a part of it, to sanctify it and make it holy so that the two can fulfill the goal, which is clearly stated in the epistle of the marriage service:

...Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish... (Ephesians 5:20-33)

To present the Body spotless, without stain or wrinkle refers to our baptismal garments. This is why the wedding dress and suit are typically white, symbolizing the purity of the baptismal garments. The two are tasked to help each other in this task and lift one another up.

To help accentuate this point, Mother Church offers two individuals whom we celebrate on May 2: Saints Timothy and Mavra. The following excerpt is taken from *OrthodoxWiki*:

Under some accounts Timothy was a priest of the Church, but in most he was a reader. He was married to Mavra, a devout Christian woman from a very pious Christian family. Timothy was known for his great piety and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. Many times at night after the day's work, villagers would gather around Timothy where he would read to them from the Scriptures.

After only 20 days of marriage, Timothy was summoned to the pagan governor Arianos, to be brought to trial for his Christian teaching and missionary work. At first, he was asked to surrender all of his sacred books in order for them to be destroyed. Timothy refused, for he knew their value and power. "If a father who loves his children," he said, "and who obeys the natural law does not deliver up to death his fleshly children, how can I give over my spiritual children, the sacred books, into your polluted hands?" He was punished harshly and inhumanely for his courage, but he regarded the tortures as honors, since they would bring him eternal bliss.



The governor commanded that Timothy be pierced through the ears with iron rods, so that the pupils of his eyes leapt out with the pain. He was also hanged by his feet and his mouth was stuffed with wood. His wife also was cruelly tortured after she was asked to use her "womanly gifts" to persuade her husband to deny Christ. Instead, she gave Timothy strength and encouragement during his suffering. This enraged Arianos even more and he began to think of even



Saints Timothy and Mavra

more barbaric tortures. Mavra's hair was pulled out and her fingers were cut off. As she was being tortured, she prayed for her tormentors. She was then put in a cauldron of boiling water which did not affect her.

During all of these tortures, the saints both saw visions of angels which comforted them. As they were both led to their death by crucifixion, they both kissed their crosses on which they were to be martyred. Nailed to their crosses facing each other, each comforted the other for nine days as they hung. After nine days of hanging on their crosses glorifying the Lord, these newlyweds gave up their souls and entered eternal life. They beheld a vision of angels pointing to thrones in heaven next to Jesus Christ waiting for them.

Miraculously, the heartless Arianos later repented, became a Christian, and was martyred for Christ. The church celebrates his feast day on December 14.

This story, at first, appears very sad and somber. Two newlyweds killed after only being married a week, and yet, they exemplify marriage to us. Marriage is not easy. It is not a Hollywood or Disney affair that has a "and they lived happily ever after." Marriage requires us to be crucified for one another, to die for one another, and to witness for one another. If the goal of marriage is to enter Paradise together, then despite its brevity, SS. Timothy and Mavra presented a perfect marriage.

We can have a home, but then what? We can have children, but then what? We can have those children raised and married themselves, but then what? We can plan the perfect retirement, but then what? Marriage has a point. Marriage has a goal. It is not merely to have company as we traverse this life and not be lonely. Marriage is being together with the one you love into eternity and to raise children to enter paradise through either biological children or godchildren or both.

Let us celebrate marriages in the Holy Context of the Church and the goal of Marriage itself.

Christ is risen!

I remain your servant in Christ,

+ Fr. Dimitry

Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Parish Council Update

By John Billiris

Dear Parishioners of St. Basil — Christ is risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

I hope you all had a wonderful Pascha, and had the opportunity to share in all the Holy Week services with family and friends. Also, Happy name-day and χρόνια πολλά to all the Georges at St. Basil!

We have many upcoming events and look forward to having you join us at the following:

- + Greek Independence Day Parade: St. Basil will be hosting a float on Sunday May 5, at 2:30 p.m. There will be plenty of time to make your way to Greek Town after Sunday's Liturgy, so please come join us and show your support Hellenism and our Orthodox faith.
- + Trivia Night: Our 4th annual Trivia Night will be on Thursday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Billy Goat Tavern.
- + Golf Outing: Our 2019 annual Golf Outing at The Odyssey Country Club will take place on Wednesday, July 10. Please come show your support for St. Basil and take advantage of the summer sunshine.

Χριστός Ανέστη,

John Billiris, Parish Council Member

Philoptochos Update

By Mary Peroulas

Dear Parishioners — Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

On April 21, we hosted the Palm Sunday Luncheon. We served fish plaki, rice, beets, salad, and dessert. Based on feedback from the parishioners, everything was delicious.! We thank everyone for their hard work in preparing and serving the meal. Special thanks to our co-chairs Kathy Michas and Nichole Kourvas Drimonas.

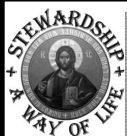
After lunch, we had our raffle drawing for the baby lamb. Congratulations to the following raffle winners:

- + George Andrews
- + John and Anna Lambros
- + George Varygiannis
- + Christine Rousakis (She was happy to win, but wanted us to pick another name; we drew Frank Kuchuris. Mr. Kuchuris asked that the lamb be given to Vicky Crosby.)

Also, it is time to thank our supporters. We sincerely appreciate the kindness and generosity of our wonderful community. A heartfelt thank-you to all who donated for the luncheon, the red eggs, the flowers, and more. The work of Philoptochos would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and your support.

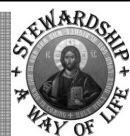
If you would like more information about Philoptochos, please speak to one of our members or contact the church office at 312-243-3738. We would love to have you join our wonderful ministry!

Mary Peroulas, Philoptochos Member



Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



Registration for 2019 is still underway. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or pick up a pamphlet at the pangari. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2019 Snapshot (as of April 30, 2019)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
152	\$202,829	\$100,159

We are still looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. Stewardship Ministry meetings will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Please join us, we'd love to have you. If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Maria-Kanella Koper at mariakkoper@gmail.com.

Would you like to be a guest writer for the Stewardship section of the monthly newsletter? We'd love to hear why you love Saint Basil's church and our faith. Please contact Maria-Kanella if you're interested.

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

SAVE THE
DATE



THE NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS
17TH BIENNIAL 2019 CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON
November 16, 2019

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

Hosted by The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The 2019 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was a great success. Great job to all the students and teachers for their continued hard work and dedication. Also a special thanks to Father Dimitri, presenters, and judges. All who participated in the festival should be very proud.



The myrrh bearers that participated in the Holy Friday and Holy Saturday services did a wonderful job as well. A special thanks to Stella Antonoglu and Marina Arvanitis for helping prepare and guide the girls throughout the beautiful services.

The St. Basil Sunday School year is almost at an end. The graduation will be held on June 9, 2018. After the graduation, students will sell lemonade and frappe to raise money for the Children's Medical Fund in the church basement.

Any questions regarding the Sunday School program, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net



Someone You Should Know

Glykeria (Keri) Chekalas

Parishioner Keri Chekalas has been teaching Sunday School at St. Basil on and off for about ten years. She currently works with 5th to 7th graders. Her goal is to have her students become committed Orthodox Christians who will continue practicing an Orthodox lifestyle well after they graduate from the Sunday School program. “I want to enrich the lives of the children through the teaching of our faith,” she notes, “and I hope to instill in them an abiding faith in Orthodox Christianity.” She is passing on the spiritual values she learned as a child.

An only child, Keri grew up in Portland, Oregon, where her mother was a banker and her father a restaurant owner. Her parents were born in Nestani, a town near Tripoli in Greece, and came to the U.S. when they were in their twenties. Keri grew up speaking Greek at home, attending Greek school, and studying Greek dance. Family and tradition are the cornerstones of her upbringing.

Keri moved to Chicago to attend college, earning a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She flew back home to Portland over Christmas and summer breaks, and she joined the Greek Club on campus to stay in touch with her culture. “The best thing I got from that experience,” she says, “are the friendships that I still have to this day.”

In 2008 Keri’s parents moved from Portland to the Chicago suburb of Morton Grove to be closer to Keri. The three of them travel to Greece regularly to spend time with family there. Keri lives in the city, in Wrigleyville, but she visits her parents often and enjoys baking with her mom during the holidays. Melomakarona and kourambietes are seasonal favorites.

Professionally, Keri is a trust administrator for Northern Trust, a field she hopes to advance in throughout her career. Recreationally, she enjoys reading, yoga, running, and travel.

The Orthodox faith is the guiding principle in Keri’s life. She loves the beauty of the liturgy, especially the chanting. Pascha services in the spring are a high point in her spiritual life.



Prison Ministry

By Steve & Pat Cole

Dear St. Basil Parishioners,

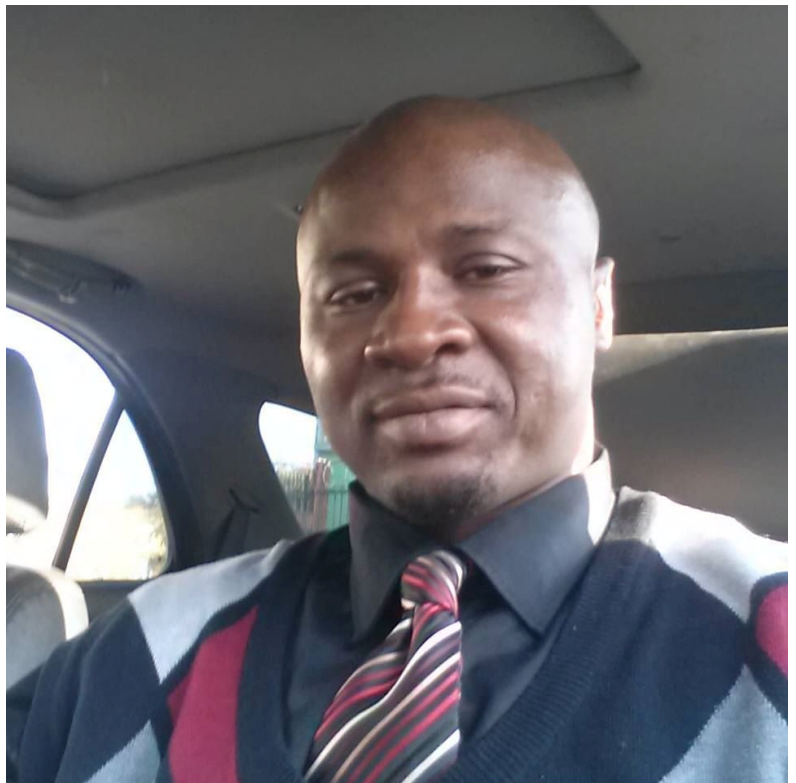
Without your help, there would be no Prison Ministry at St. Basil Church. With your support, we are able to comfort prisoners and their families through our Angel Tree efforts at Christmas and through the letters and cards we send to them during the year.

On page 11 is a flyer for a program we are hosting at church on Saturday morning, May 11, titled Life After Prison. The purpose of the program is to educate us about the challenges formerly incarcerated people face upon release and to highlight how our efforts while they are in prison can improve the odds of a successful transition back to the community.

Our speaker Christopher Roach, Program Director at St. Leonard's House, knows the issues inside-out. He himself is an ex-offender who landed on his feet as a resident at St. Leonard's house and now has worked there for thirteen years.

Please join us for this informative and free event on May 11, at 10 a.m. We will provide a light breakfast.
Pat and Steve Cole

Chris Roach is Program Director of St. Leonard's House. Chris grew up in Chicago's West Side community of Austin, where he experienced limited opportunity and generational hopelessness. After four trips to Cook County's Youth Detention Center and a 22-month stay at the State of Illinois Youth Camp in St. Charles, Illinois, Chris wound up in the one place that he believed was practically guaranteed for men in Chicago's Austin Community: the Illinois Department of Corrections. After serving nine years of an eighteen-year sentence, Chris was released back into society on his 27th birthday with no clue how to live – that is until he came to St. Leonard's Ministries. Since his arrival thirteen years ago, Chris has helped nearly 1,000 men reenter society after time spent in prison.



Life After Prison

St. Basil Prison Ministry Discussion

May 11, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

733 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL

Guest Speaker: Christopher Roach, Program Director, St. Leonard's House

What challenges do inmates face when they are released from prison?

What are their chances to begin life anew?

What resources are available to help them transition?



St. Leonard's Ministries was founded in 1954 to help ex-offenders return to their families and communities. Located on the Chicago's Near West Side, it has two halfway houses, St. Leonard's House for men and Grace House for women. More than half of staff

members at St. Leonard's are former prisoners.

Services provided at St. Leonard's House include:

- + **Transitional housing**
- + **Substance abuse counseling**
- + **Training and employment programs**

Join the St. Basil Prison Ministry in exploring the challenges of reentry, and find out what reforms are being made at the state level to improve the lives of men and women after prison.

A light breakfast will be served. Parking is available in the rear of the church.

The event is free and open to all. For more information call the church office (312-243-3738) or Pat Cole (773-252-8254)

St. Tryphon Garden Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

Although winter has been hanging on, our parish garden spring flowers have still managed to push through. Thank you to Lambros Peroulas for all his hard work getting the gardens cleaned and ready for Holy Week. If you would like to volunteer with the St. Tryphon Garden Ministry this spring or summer by watering, weeding, planting, etc., please contact Marina Arvanitis at marvanitis@uwalumni.com.



St. John the Almsgiver Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

On the final Sunday of Lent 2019, the St. John the Almsgiver Ministry assembled another 30 Survival Packs for spring and summer. Each pack includes the following items:

Spring & Summer Survival Pack Items	
Jewel gift card - \$10	Comb
CTA single-transit ticket	Band-Aids
White T-Shirt	Hand wipes ('Wet Ones' pocket-size singles)
Pair of White tube socks	Granola bars
Toothbrush and Travel-sized toothpaste	Bottled water

Thank you to all who contributed items to the packs, and to our Sunday School students who did the packing. If you would like to contribute money or items to create more packs, please contact Marina Arvanitis at marvanitis@uwalumni.com, who can update you on the ministry's current needs.

*Come celebrate Mother's Day with Brunch at St. Basil.
Hosted by the Choir to benefit the Choir Conference.
Freewill Donation accepted. Win a 3-day vacation in Galena!*



As the Chalcedon Youths in the fire, we too sing hymns of praise to our Lord and Savior, who preserved His Church of St. Basil through the devastating fire and gloriously restored it to new heights of beauty.

St. Basil Hosting the 62nd Annual Greek Orthodox Church Music Conference
October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2019



Happy
Mother's
Day

**Join us for a Mother's Day
Brunch on Sunday, May 12th**



**Raffle to benefit the Choir Conference
Drawing May 12th, Mother's Day, at the
Brunch**

Tickets \$10 each or 3 for \$25

**Enjoy a 3-day vacation at WorldMark by
Wyndham Galena.**

<https://www.visitgalena.org>

**Relax in a fully furnished one-bedroom condo
featured at a private vacation resort equipped
with an indoor pool, spa/hot tub, exercise
facility, and game room. Occupancy for four.**

**You'll never be at a loss for what to do next in
Galena Country. It offers plenty to do for
families, friends, couples, history buffs and art
connoisseurs.**

**Schedule a time which is convenient for you
through Melita Green, melitios77@live.com**

St. Basil—Holy Week 2019



St. Basil—Holy Week 2019



**ST. BASIL CHURCH
HOSTS 4th ANNUAL**



DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 13

LOCATION: BILLY GOAT INN, 1535 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, IL

TIME: 7PM – 9PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)

TRIVIA STARTS PROMPTLY AT 7PM

TEAMS OF 4 TO 6 - \$40/PERSON

PRICE INCLUDES OPEN BAR (WELL DRINKS AND BEER), ENTIRE FOOD
MENU, AND DESSERT (OPEN BAR FROM 6:45PM TO 8:45PM)

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 TEAMS

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.STBASILCHICAGO.ORG/TRIVIA

(TEAM CAPTAINS CAN REGISTER THEIR TEAMS ONLINE WITH TEAM MEMBER
NAMES; EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN PAY SEPARATELY WITH TEAM NAME)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR info@stbasilchicago.org

SAVE THE DATE
JULY 10, 2019

**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Golf Outing**



Odyssey Country Club
19110 S Ridgeland Ave.
Tinley Park, IL

\$135 Includes:

18 Holes of Golf
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Open Bar

\$60 Includes:

Dinner
Open Bar



**ST. BASIL CHURCH OUTING TO THE
CHICAGO CUBS**

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019 • 7:05pm



CHICAGO
CUBS

VS



ST. LOUIS
CARDINALS

\$50 / person

Come out for a wonderful night of baseball, fun, and fellowship!

Tickets are located in the lower deck and can be purchased online at
www.stbasilchicago.org/cubs or after church.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR info@stbasilchicago.org.

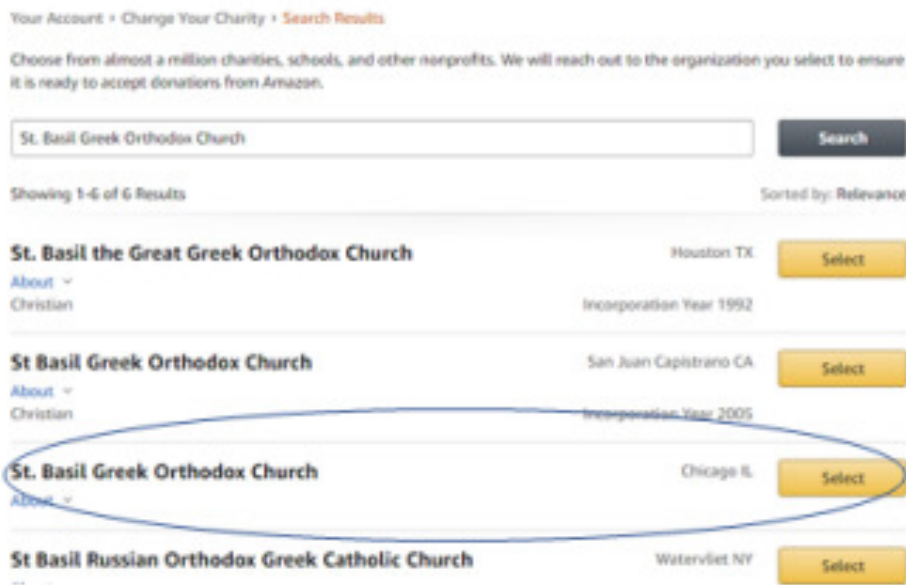
Let's Make a St. Basil "Steward"

[Smile.Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile** the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Almost everything you buy on Amazon.com is available for purchase on [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

If you are a regular user of Amazon, this is a simple way to help our church, *with no additional cost for the things you would normally buy on Amazon.*

To make St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL your charitable organization of choice, on your phone or computer browser (you will not be able to use your Amazon Shopping app.):

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?q=St.+Basil+Greek+Orthodox+Church>
2. Sign into **Amazon Smile** with your same username and password as you would to Amazon.
3. Select **St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago IL**



The screenshot shows the Amazon Smile search results page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Your Account', 'Change Your Charity', and 'Search Results'. Below this, a message states: 'Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.' A search bar contains the text 'St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church' and a 'Search' button is to its right. Below the search bar, it says 'Showing 1-6 of 6 Results' and 'Sorted by: Relevance'. The results are listed in a table-like format with four entries visible. The third entry, 'St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church' in Chicago, IL, is circled in blue. Each entry has an 'About' link, a description (e.g., 'Christian'), an incorporation year, and a 'Select' button.

Charity Name	Location	Incorporation Year	Action
St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church	Houston TX	1992	Select
St Basil Greek Orthodox Church	San Juan Capistrano CA	2005	Select
St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church	Chicago IL		Select
St Basil Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church	Watervliet NY		Select

4. Whenever purchasing from Amazon, make sure you buy your items from [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) (you will not need to select your charity again when you sign in).

Encourage your friends and family to make St. Basil Church their charity of choice.

For more information call Vicky Crosby at the St. Basil office, 312-243-3738 or Steve Cole, 312-493-4063.

Palm Sunday Luncheon



Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina completed all the Easter baking by mid-April. We made baklava, koulouria, sesame koulouria and spiced koulouria. We are pleased to say we sold all the koulouria and we have a few baklava remaining. Thank you to everyone who placed orders and to those who bought the items for the holiday.

We take a break from baking during the summer months but will begin again in September. We will provide future baking dates soon. If you have any questions please contact me at 1-708-769-4084.

Enjoy your summer. Cindy

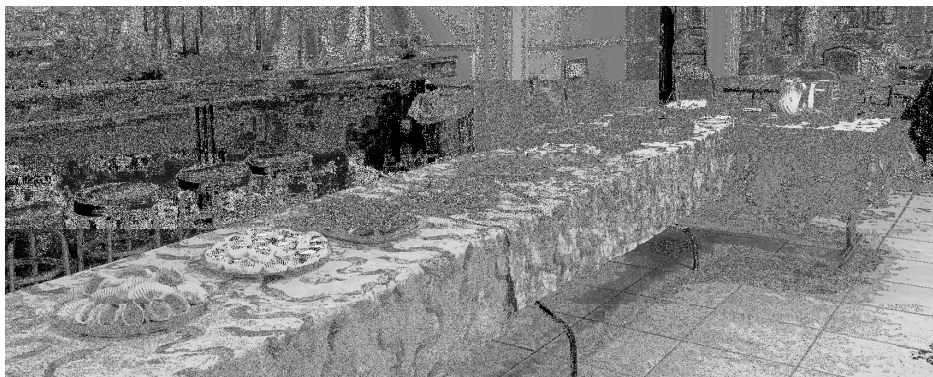


Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to know one another better.

We still have a few open dates for 2019 and are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in one of our potluck luncheons with a team of other parishioners. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.

We thank everyone who has volunteered to host a coffee hour in 2019.



Sunday, May 5	Coffee Hour Ministry Pot Luck Luncheon: Rohrman Family
Sunday, May 12	Mother's Day Brunch: St. Basil Choir
Sunday, May 19	Coffee Hour: Hosted by AHEPA
Sunday, May 26	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

May 5 — Irene the Great Martyr



Saint Irene was the daughter of a princelet called Licinius; named Penelope by her parents, through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized. Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working dread miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, which is commonly called Santorin (or Santorini), a corruption of "Saint Irene."

May 21 — SS. Constantine & Helen Equal to the Apostles



This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River

while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified. After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

He beheld the image of Your Cross in the Heavens and, as Paul, he too did not receive the call from men. Your Apostle among Kings placed the care of the Royal City in Your hands. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Loving Lord, keep it ever in peace.

St. Basil — 2019 Stewards

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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	3 9:30 am Orthros & Liturgy of the Lifegiving Spring at the SJRC 12:00 pm HSA OCF PARAKLISIS	4
5 8:15 am Cinco de Mayo Orthros and Divine Liturgy	6 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	7 7:00 pm Teacher meeting - final for 2019	8 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	9 6:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Divine Liturgy for the Prophet Isaiah and St. Christopher	10	11 Speaker for Prison Ministry
12 8:15 am Mother's Day Girls Ministry to Serve for Mothers Day Orthros and Divine Liturgy	13	14 Clergy Retreat	15 Clergy Retreat	16 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Clergy Retreat	17	18
19 8:15 am Sunday School Orthros and Divine Liturgy	20 7:00 pm "Great Vespers for Ss. Constantine & Helen (at Palos Hills parish)"	21 6:30 am Divine Liturgy or SS. Constantine & Helen at St. Basil 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Ss. Constantine & Helen	22 6:30 am Divine Liturgy of Midpentecost 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	23 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	24 JUNIOR OLYMPICS	25 JUNIOR OLYMPICS
26 8:15 am JUNIOR OLYMPICS Orthros and Divine Liturgy	27 Memorial Day	28	29 11:00 am Bible Study	30 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	31	

**ST. BASIL CHURCH
HOSTS 4th ANNUAL**



DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 13

LOCATION: BILLY GOAT INN, 1535 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, IL

TIME: 7PM – 9PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM)

TRIVIA STARTS PROMPTLY AT 7PM

TEAMS OF 4 TO 6 - \$40/PERSON

**PRICE INCLUDES OPEN BAR (WELL DRINKS AND BEER), ENTIRE FOOD
MENU, AND DESSERT (OPEN BAR FROM 6:45PM TO 8:45PM)**

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 TEAMS

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.STBASILCHICAGO.ORG/TRIVIA

**(TEAM CAPTAINS CAN REGISTER THEIR TEAMS ONLINE WITH TEAM MEMBER
NAMES; EACH INDIVIDUAL CAN PAY SEPARATELY WITH TEAM NAME)**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT ST. BASIL AT (312) 243-3738 OR INFO@STBASILCHICAGO.ORG

SAVE THE DATE
JULY 10, 2019

**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Golf Outing**



**Odyssey Country Club
19110 S Ridgeland Ave.
Tinley Park, IL**

\$135 Includes:

**18 Holes of Golf
Breakfast
Lunch
Dinner
Open Bar**

\$60 Includes:

**Dinner
Open Bar**



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607